First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

July 30, 2023
10:00a.m.
"Pity or Passion: Does It Make a Difference?"
9th Sunday after Pentecost

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Interactive – Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so we know of your presence.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING THE BELL — **MARTY KLEINO**

PRELUDE — ***Start Zoom Recording to Cloud** — **JOSHUA CANTANIA**

"Shall We Gather at the River"
Robert Lowry

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS — **PATTY SHERWOOD**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.
- It is a pleasure to have the **Rev. LeAnn Seito** bringing the message today.
- **Patty Sherwood,** Zoom Host, will introduce folks participating in worship.
- Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved community.
- Please submit written announcements to by e-mail to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN — *Microphone muted — **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"You Are Welcome Here"
26 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP — *Responsive with microphone muted — **PATTY SHERWOOD**

Leader: For a thousand years, Christians have prayed the Jesus Prayer:
Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.
Over time, this has developed a negative meaning – one suggesting the power of One having pity over another. Instead the words of the prayer mean:

People: Dear Jesus, be bonded with me. I need your energy and grace to flow through my heart. I trust in your love.

Leader: Mercy is not about pity. It's about passion. Mercy is a fierce bond of love. It is the unbreakable "super glue" of God holding the world together.

People: Dear Jesus, be bonded with me. I need your energy and grace to flow through my heart. I trust in your love.

Leader: Mercy can never be broken. It is a forever connection. When we act from connection, we call our action JUST.

People: Dear Jesus, be bonded with us. We need your energy and grace to flow through our hearts. We trust in your love.

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed"
540 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

READING **Psalm 136** **REV. LEANN**

Matthew 13:31-32 **PATTY SHERWOOD**

Micah 6:8 **REV. LEANN**

HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Surely No One Can Be Safer"

MESSAGE **"Pity or Passion: Does is Make a Difference"** **REV. LEANN**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording **REV. LEANN**

***Please turn on your microphone**

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say "God in your mercy"
We will respond (with microphones muted) "Hear our prayers"

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **REV. LEANN**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **REV. LEANN**

God of Justice and Mercy, Because your innermost being is turned outward
to sustain the visible and created world in unbreakable love,
We can know we are enough.
We can face tomorrow.
We are willing to risk failing in our experiments with your Love...
because failing just means falling into your merciful arms.
Amen.

Use this moment of silence to offer your own prayers.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **REV. LEANN**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"Just As I Am"** **JOSHUA CANTANIA**
William B. Bradbury/Charlotte Elliot

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **PATTY SHERWOOD**

May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God's children who seek it.
May they remind us to love more mercifully,
May all walk humbly as we learn to trod gently upon this earth. Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"
474 NCH

BENEDICTION **REV. LEANN**

POSTLUDE **"Doxology"** **JOSHUA CATANIA**
Thomas Kern

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

*Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**
Zoom Only Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. LeAnn Seito, Bringing the Message
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Joshua Cantania, Accompanist
Jenn Zibbell, MID

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734-482-6980
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Pieter Casteels III, *Concert of Birds,* snappygoat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Marty Kleino, Congregational Life Coordinator at 734-262-1419.

Worship Next Week: Zoom Host, Anne Marie Nicoll-Turner; Worship Leader, Marty Kleino.

Looking ahead:

August 13th, Rev. Jay Cummings
August 27th, Rev. John Rohde

Relaunch of the Tea for the Soul from Rev. Dan: He reports the ministry with night staff at St. Jos Hosp is going well. He served 85 staff members this week. The animal crackers were a terrific hit, as it brought back really good memories for some of the staff.

As you may have heard on the news, Trinity Health Ann Arbor (St. Joe's) is suffering on its budget, due to a major gap in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement. This is a national issue affecting all Michigan hospitals. (Dan's) *department has no funds currently available for such things as supplies. So .... that makes your donations extremely helpful.*

Current needs include:

- Coffee
- Snacks

If we provide more Ypsi UCC stickers, Dan will place one on each cup.

Contact Marty (734-262-1419) who will make arrangements to get our contributions to Dan.

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night challplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee (locally roasted by Michigan companies,) tea, single packaged candy/snacks and other things that accompany tea. Contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

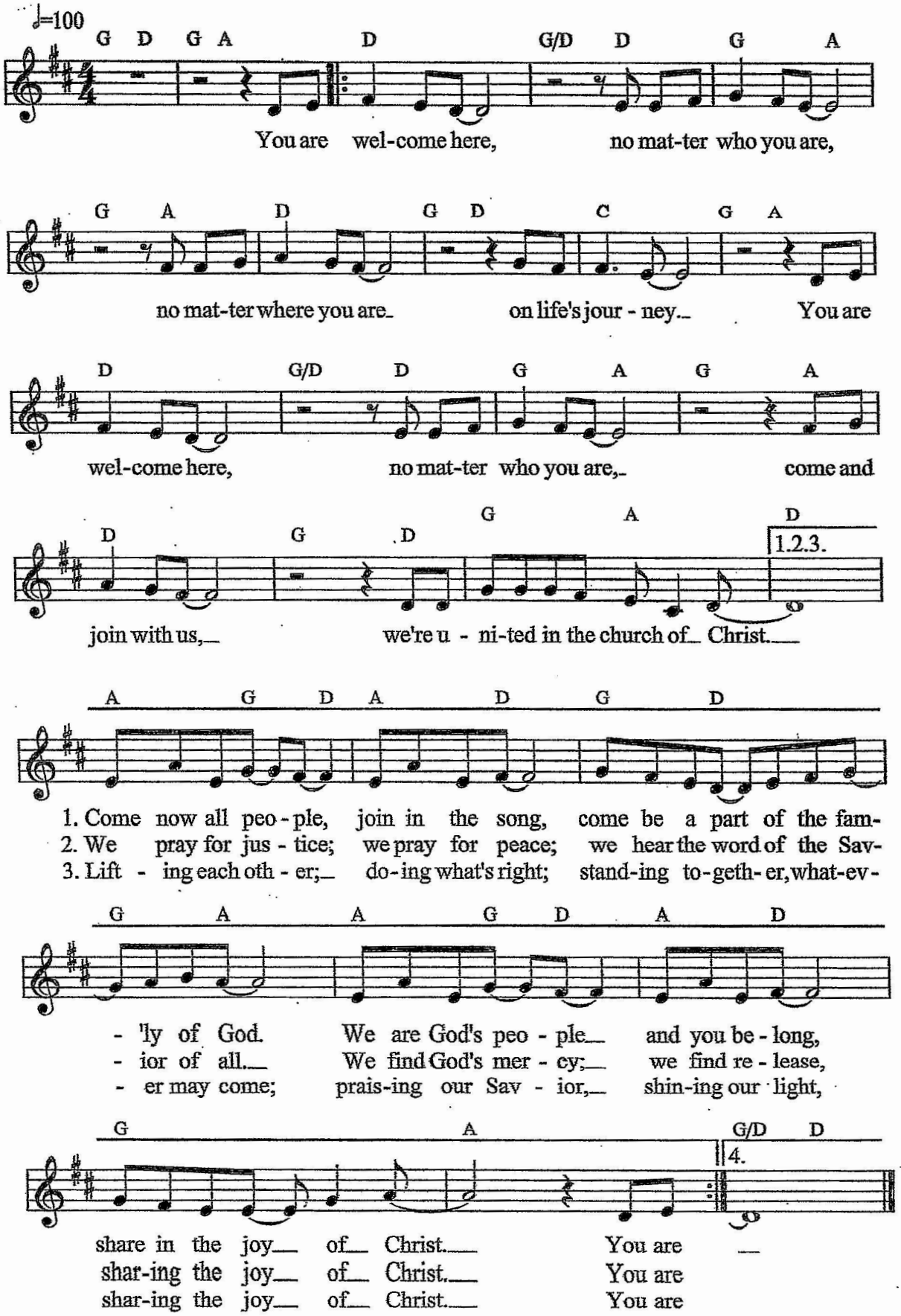
WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

You Are Welcome Here

♩=100
G D G A D G/D D G A
You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,
G A D G D C G A
no mat-ter where you are_ on life's jour - ney._ You are
D G/D D G A G A
wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,_ come and
D G D G A D
1.2.3.
join with us,_ we're u - ni-ted in the church of_ Christ.__
A G D A D G D
1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er;_ do-ing what's right; stand-ing to-geth- er, what-ev-
G A A G D A D
- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple__ and you be - long,
- ior of all.__ We find God's mer - cy;__ we find re - lease,
- er may come; prais-ing our Sav - ior,__ shin-ing our light,
G A G/D D
4.
share in the joy__ of__ Christ.__ You are __
shar-ing the joy__ of__ Christ.__ You are
shar-ing the joy__ of__ Christ.__ You are

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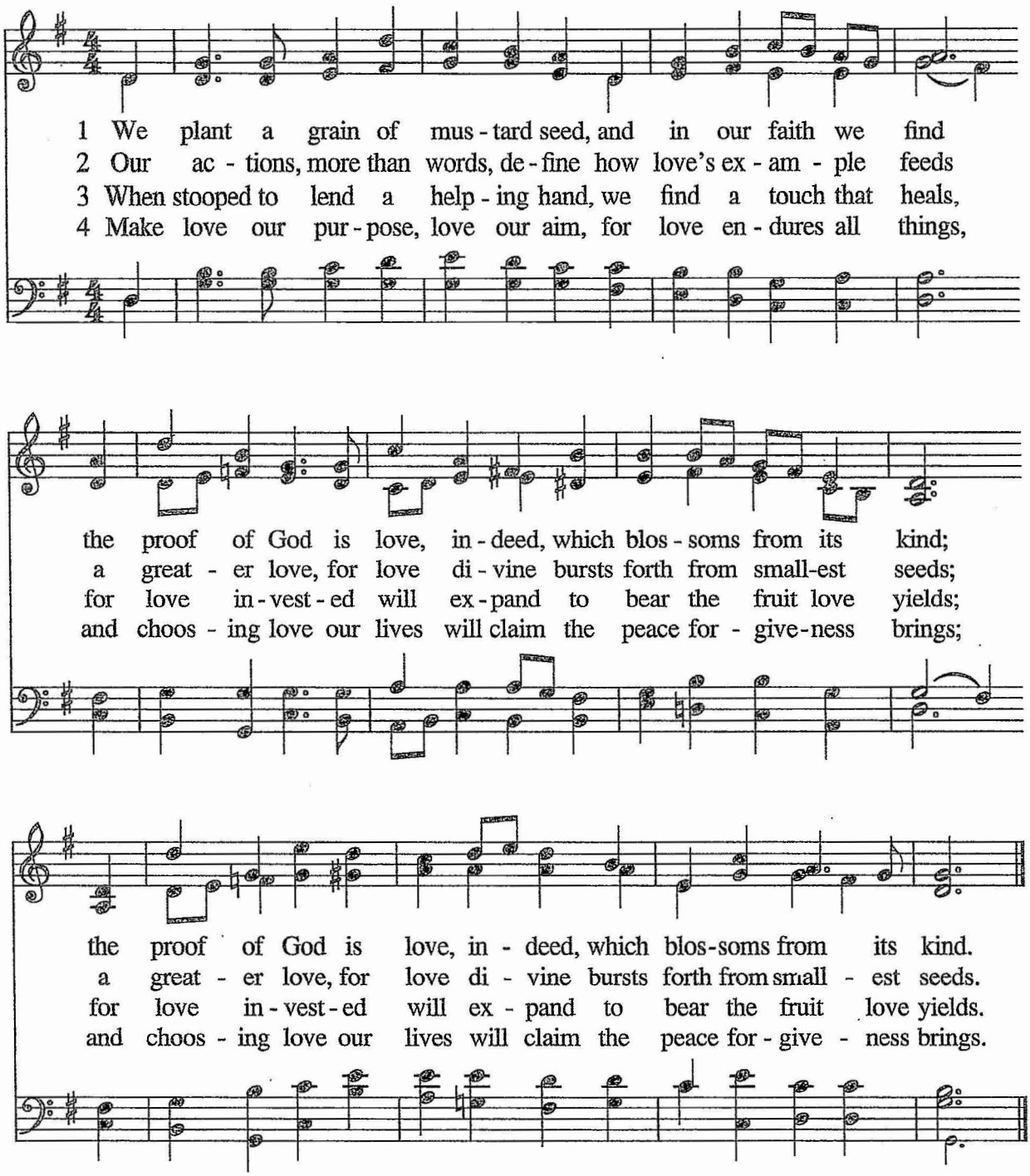
540 We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31–32; Mark 4:30–32; Luke 13:18–19; John 13:34–35; 15:12–17

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990

1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,
the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small-est seeds;
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;
the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

5 So may our new be-gin-nings prove,
like liv-ing bread and wine,
that through our com-mon hu-man love
we taste what is di-vine;
that through our com-mon hu-man love
we taste what is di-vine.

6 Our lives will be ful-filled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown
and by the love that we pro-fess
the love of Christ is known;
and by the love that we pro-fess
the love of Christ is known.

Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

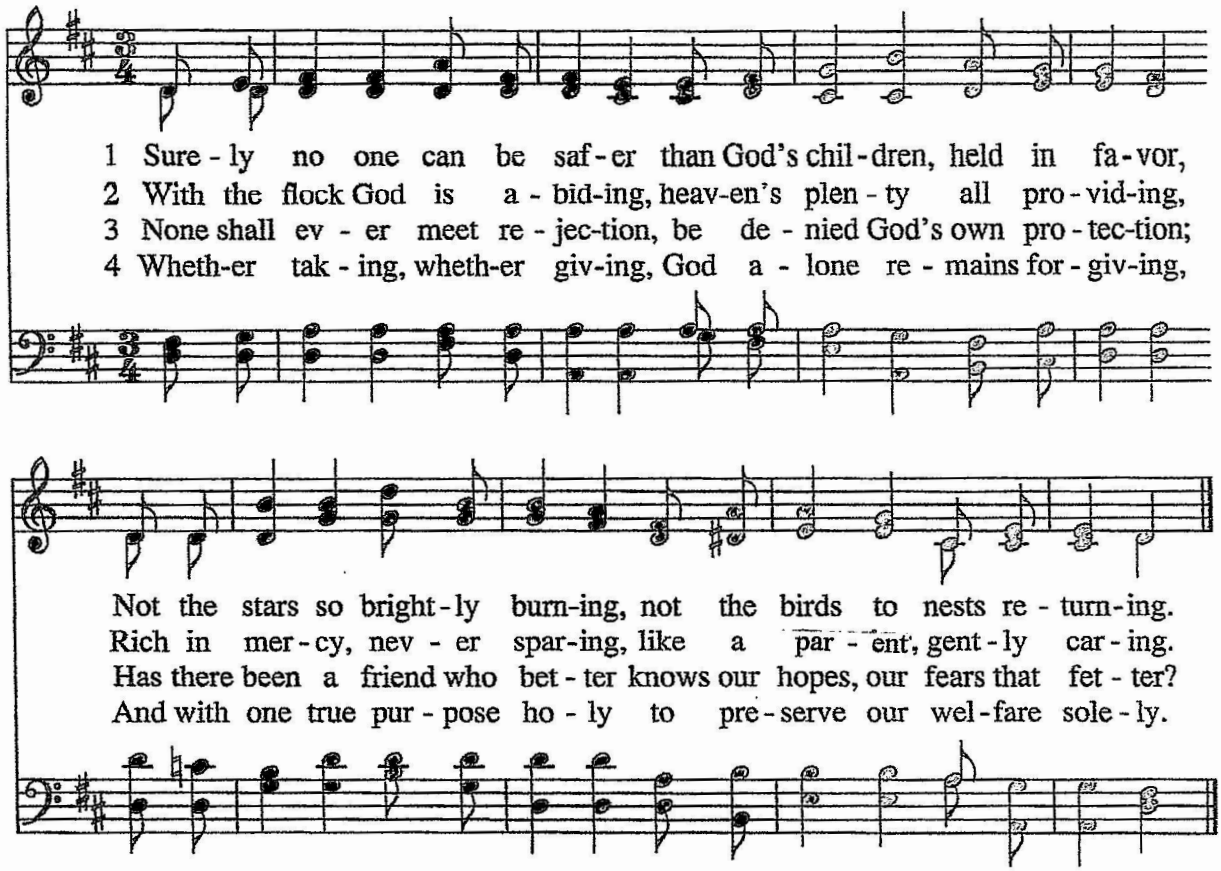
Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.
Sally Ann Morris, 1990

Surely No One Can Be Safer

487

Lina Sandell, 1855
Transl. The New Century Hymnal, *1994*

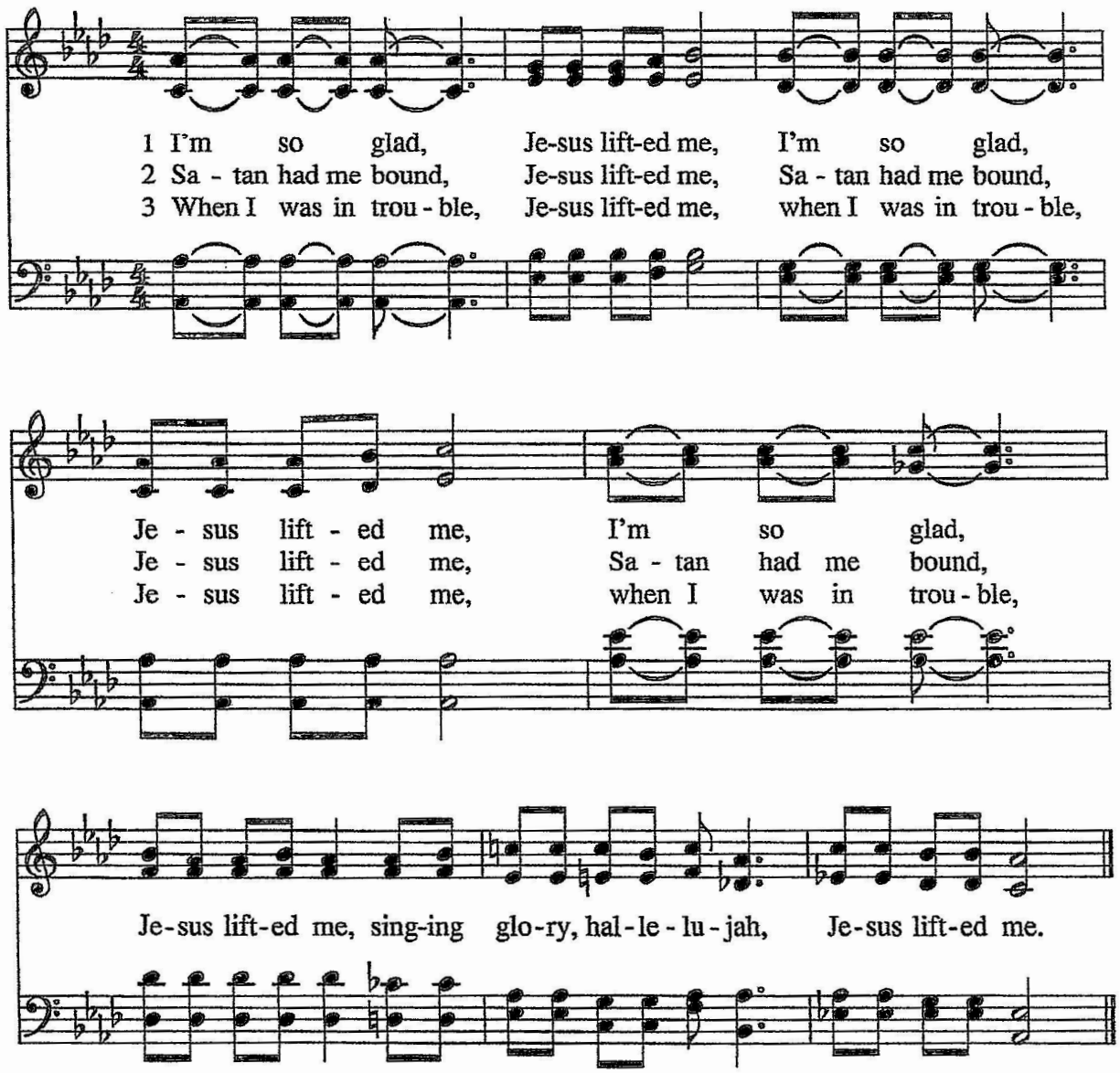
Rom. 8:38–39


1 Sure - ly no one can be saf - er than God's chil - dren, held in fa - vor,
2 With the flock God is a - bid-ing, heav-en's plen - ty all pro - vid-ing,
3 None shall ev - er meet re - jec-tion, be de - nied God's own pro - tec-tion;
4 Wheth-er tak - ing, wheth-er giv-ing, God a - lone re - mains for - giv-ing,
Not the stars so bright - ly burn-ing, not the birds to nests re - turn - ing.
Rich in mer - cy, nev - er spar-ing, like a par - ent, gent - ly car - ing.
Has there been a friend who bet - ter knows our hopes, our fears that fet - ter?
And with one true pur - pose ho - ly to pre - serve our wel - fare sole - ly.

Lina Sandell endured many hardships in her early years, including illness, the death of a child, and the drowning of her father, who was a Swedish Lutheran pastor. She maintained a deep piety and strong commitment to mission, and wrote more than 650 hymns and poems.

Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA L.M.
Swedish folk melody
Harm. Song Book for Sunday School, *1871*

I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me 474

African-American spiritual

1 I'm so glad, Je-sus lift-ed me, I'm so glad,
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, Je-sus lift-ed me, when I was in trou - ble,
Je - sus lift - ed me, I'm so glad,
Je - sus lift - ed me, Sa - tan had me bound,
Je - sus lift - ed me, when I was in trou - ble,
Je-sus lift-ed me, sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le-lu-jah, Je-sus lift-ed me.

Just as the spirituals were adapted to be sung in a folk-song style during the 1960s music-festivals and civil rights marches, so have they been adapted in a gospel style. This is a spiritual that especially lends itself to gospel rendering.

Tune: I'M SO GLAD Irr.
African-American spiritual